

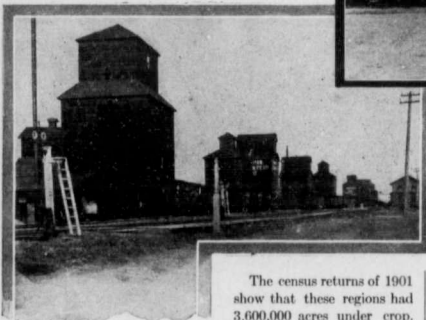
for shipment over the railway. Sometimes he prefers to hold his grain for a "rise" in the price, but this is a risky bit of speculation in which only those who are well established can indulge.

#### RESULTS FOR THE FARMER.

The average yield of wheat in the West during fourteen years has been 20 bushels per acre, the highest yearly average being nearly 28 bushels. A glance at the diagram (page 44) gives the best illustration of the results. In individual cases as high as 40 and 45 bushels per acre have been recorded. At the Government Experimental Farms, where more labor is expended on the land, the yield is much larger. The quality of the western wheat must also be taken into account. Tests made recently by three London bakers showed that this wheat has about 10 per cent more albuminoids than the best European brands; and that 100 pounds of Canadian flour make more bread of excellent quality than the same weight of any other flour imported into Great Britain.

To grow a bushel of wheat costs the western farmer about 35 cents. All he sells it for above this is clear gain. He is now receiving 75 cents, or a profit of 40 cents per bushel.

A recent estimate has been made of what we may expect Manitoba and the three southern territories to yield.



The census returns of 1901 show that these regions had 3,600,000 acres under crop.

The number of acres under crop in 1903 was 4,687,583, an increase of over 30 per cent.

Assuming that the area of Manitoba and the three territories is 228,000,000 acres, and that, of this, 45,000,000 are available for wheat, oats, and barley, the calculation would result in showing that in twelve years the whole 45,000,000 acres would be taken up and the output at the present average per acre would be:

	Acres	Yield bushels
Wheat .....	29,700,000	750,000,000
Oats .....	11,250,000	528,000,000
Barley .....	4,050,000	141,750,000

From the rate at which population is pouring into these regions it is safe to say that the 45,000,000 acres will be under the plough and yielding a harvest long before the expiration of the term of years mentioned.

By that time double the number of acres will be ready for the farmer, and still there will be 138,000,000 acres to be brought under the plough.

The demand for wheat in the United Kingdom over and above the normal production of that country is about 200,000,000 bushels. If the foregoing estimate is fulfilled, the Canadian West itself will be raising this quantity within a comparatively few years. And it must not be forgotten that this prophetic survey does not include Athabaska, with its fertile Peace River country.

#### RANCHING.

The ranching country of Canada is chiefly in Southern Alberta and Western Assiniboia. The ranches vary in size from 1,000 to 20,000 acres and over. They must always have a central supply of water for the use of the stock. This land is usually covered with the coarse, rich prairie grass, which makes good fodder both in summer and winter. It is peculiar inasmuch as it does not form into turf as in other countries, but grows more in tufts. Close cropping by sheep is injurious, and sheep ranching is limited to a small specified area in Central Alberta.



Where Western Canada's Grain is Handled.

Many of the ranches are owned by Englishmen who had considerable capital with which to begin, but the larger ones are for the most part operated by companies. During the past few years a large area has been taken up by settlers from the United States, who have moved their entire herds and flocks to these lands.

Cattle and horses are branded with the stamp of their owner and then allowed to roam at large on the plains. They remain out all winter and can live ordinarily on the grass; but wild hay is stacked every summer for use when a thaw is followed by frost, as it is then difficult for the cattle to eat through the crusted snow.

Twice each year—in the spring and fall—takes place what is called a "round-up" of all the cattle in each district. Cowboys are sent out from the ranches, and after driving all the wandering cattle or horses into a central place, they go through the herd, "cutting out" the cattle of their own ranches with the young. As the means of identification, the brand is of the utmost importance, and the man who fails to respect it is severely punished. Cattle that have strayed in from other districts are sent to a single ranch and the various brands are advertised in the newspapers so that the owners may claim their cattle. Shipments are made to the mining districts of British Columbia, to Eastern Canada, the United States, and England.

#### GRAIN ELEVATORS.

The immense crops of the West must be stored up for gradual shipment to Europe. There are at present 1,003 elevators west of Lake Superior, with a total capacity of 40,778,000 bushels. To the east are others with a capacity of another 12,500,000

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